

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 18454 051900 Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

SECSTATE WASHDC 1554

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP

SUBJ: SEC/ VISIT: EUROPEAN PRESS COVERAGE

REF: STATE 128096

FOR BRAY

1. JOBERT SPEECH DOMINATES FRENCH PRESS ATTENTION TO HELSINKI JULY 5. WITH EXCEPTION OF COMMUNIST HUMANITE, EDITORIALS SEE IT AS AN UNVARNISHED ASSESSMENT OF CSCE PROSPECTS AND A REALISTIC SETTING- FORTH OF FRENCH SKEPTICISM.

2. FIGARO'S JEAN REY, IN INSIDE- PAGE DISPATCH FROM HELSINKI, CALLED JOBERT INTERVENTION A " TOUGH SPEECH, IN WHICH REALISM WAS JUST A STEP AWAY FROM PESSIMISM." RIGHTIST AURORE (ROLAND FAURE ON FRONT PAGE) SAID IT WAS " SOBER" AND MIGHT HAVE BEEN ENTITLED " THE END OF ILLUSIONS". FAURE WROTE THAT FRENCH DIPLOMACY IS CHARACTERIZED BY " REALISM, PRUDENCE AND A CERTAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PARIS 18454 051900 Z

SKEPTICISM" AND ADDED: " WITH JUST CAUSE, FRANCE FEARS A FUTURE WRITTEN IN THE BALMY CLIMATE OF DEMOBILIZATION. THE SKEPTICISM OF FRENCH DIPLOMACY IS QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE, FOR IT IS MOTIVATED BY FEAR OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF UNAVOIDABLE AMERICAN DISENGAGEMENT. THE VOID THUS CREATED WILL EXCITE SOVIET CUPIDITY UNLESS IT IS FILLED BY A EUROPEAN FORCE STILL, ALAS, NON- EXISTENT".

3. LEFTIST COMBAT: " JOBERT GAVE A SPEECH WORTHY OF FRANCE, WHICH ESTABLISHES HIM IN HIS NEW FUNCTIONS. YOU'D HAVE TO DISOWN MONTAIGNE TO CRITICIZE JOBERT'S SKEPTICISM: THE (CSCE) IS NOT A FESTIVAL, AND NOTHING CONSTRUCTIVE WILL BE DONE THERE IF WE DO NOT GO TO THE HEART OF THE PROBLEMS. IN THIS SENSE, JOBERT'S SPEECH HAS A TONE OF HERETOFORE UNEQUALED SINCERITY. ALL OF FRANCE'S RESERVATIONS ARE MENTIONED ... SEVERAL STINGING PHRASES (' SECURITY DOES NOT COME BY CHANCE' AND 'THE PREPARATIONS FOR THIS CONFERENCE WERE ONE HUGE TALK- FEST') WILL GIVE PAUSE FOR REFLECTION TO THOSE WHO CAME TO HELSINKI THINKING THEY WERE INAUGURATING A NEW ERA".

4. GAULLIST LA NATION WAS A SHADE MORE POSITIVE: " WE MUST HOPE THAT EVERYONE HAS HEARD FRANCE'S MESSAGE: 'MAKE EUROPE A SECURE PLACE AND A CENTER OF PROGRESS FOR ALL PEOPLES. THAT IS A REASONABLE OBJECTIVE WHICH CAN BEGIN TAKING SHAPE AT HELSINKI WITHOUT 'FREEING THE SPIRITS OF FALSE ASSURANCES'".

5. HUMANITE'S HEADLINES NICELY SUM UP THE COMMUNIST DAILY'S REACTION: " BAD START FOR JOBERT. NO INITIATIVE IN FAVOR OF DETENTE, JUST A PILE OF RESERVATIONS AND RETICENCE".

6. IN A PRE- JOBERT FRONT- PAGE EDITORIAL, LE MONDE SAID: " AT FIRST SIGHT, SOVIET UNION IS ALREADY THE WINNER--- THE CONVENING OF THE CONFERENCE, THE TWO GERMANIES SIDE BY SIDE ON EQUAL FOOTING, THE PRELIMINARY SETTLEMENT OF MATTERS IN DISPUTE BETWEEN BONN AND COMMUNIST WORLD... BUT IS THIS SUFFICIENT REASON FOR (GIVING UP)? CONSIDERING THAT THE SOVIET UNION... HAS HUGE WEAKNESSES, WHY SHOULD THE NON- COMMUNIST WORLD FEEL DEFEATED BEFOREHAND? IT IS CERTAIN THAT BREZHNEV WILL TRY TO TURN THE CONFERENCE TO PROFIT. BUT DOES THIS PROVE HE DOES NOT SINCERELY SEEK DETENTE? WHAT HAVE WE TO LOSE BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 18454 051900 Z

TAKING HIM AT HIS WORD? IF THE WEST KNOWS HOW TO PLAY DIPLOMACY, IT IS THEY WHO HAVE THE BEST TRUMPS".

IRWIN

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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